



APPENDIX A

"CLEAN" VERSION OF EACH PARAGRAPH/SECTION/CLAIM
37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(ii) AND (c)(i)

CLAIMS (with indication of amended or new):

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21. (AMENDED) An endoscope capable of being autoclaved according to claim 6, wherein one of the airtight partition members of the hermetically sealed unit is a first optical member, the first optical member engages with a frame member and has a distal surface, and wherein when a second optical member is fixed to only the distal surface of the first optical member, the second optical member is not engaged with the frame member.

23. (AMENDED) An endoscope capable of being autoclaved, comprising:
an outer casing of the endoscope made at least partially of a polymeric material and having an interior; and

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a component housed in the interior of the outer casing and constituted as a hermetically sealed unit composed of a plurality of airtight partition members which are hermetically joined to one another;

wherein the outer casing is formed to provide a first sealing level to hinder liquid from invading into the interior thereof while permitting high-pressure, high-temperature steam given off during autoclaving to invade into the interior thereof; and

the component is formed to provide a second sealing level higher than the first sealing level of the outer casing, to hinder the high-pressure, high-temperature steam penetrating through the outer casing during autoclaving from invading into the interior.

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27. (NEW) An endoscope capable of being autoclaved according to claim 23, wherein the component is composed of a plurality of airtight partition members which are hermetically joined to one another by an airtight joining means.

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28. (NEW) An endoscope capable of being autoclaved according to claim 27,²⁶
wherein said airtight joining means comprises:

locking parts respectively provided on the plurality of airtight partition members at positions to hermetically join the plurality of airtight partition members to one another;

a coating part formed by having a metal or glass coating formed on at least one of the locking parts provided on the plurality of airtight partition members; and

airtight joining part formed by heating the joined part of the airtight partition members to fuse the coating part.

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29. (NEW) An endoscope capable of being autoclaved, comprising:

an outer casing means made at least partially of a polymeric material that secures an internal space;

a component housed in the internal space of the outer casing means and constituted as a hermetically sealed unit composed of a plurality of airtight partition members;

a first sealing means, with which the outer casing means is provided, to provide the outer casing means with watertightness to hinder liquid from invading into the interior of the outer casing means and to provide a first sealing level to permit high-pressure, high-temperature steam given off during autoclaving to invade into the internal space of the outer casing means; and

a second sealing means with which the component is provided, to provide the component with a second sealing level higher than the first sealing level provided by the first sealing means, to hinder the high-pressure, high-temperature steam invading through the outer casing means during autoclaving from invading into the airtight partition members.

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